

Families Under Urban & Social Attack

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February 4, 2008

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Reverend Leslie Smith II Chief Executive Officer/ Founder Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W. Washington DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Tate:

Families Under Urban and Social Attack, Inc. (FUUSA) recently became aware of the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on broadcasting localism, which asserts that broadcasters may not be adequately serving their local communities. FUUSA is a non-profit, community-based organization whose mission is to "empower families to help themselves." I am writing to commend our local television station, KTRK-TV (ABC 13) for their outstanding efforts and commitment to serve Houston and its surrounding counties.

FUUSA serves on the front line, in the trenches, where casualties of the urban and social ills of our city and nation can be seen daily. We are tending to the wounds left by poverty, poor health care, a knowledge chasm, and hope deferred. KTRK is busy with its camera's and professional journalist telling the story of organizations like FUUSA through on-air interviews, event coverage, and special features. From my perspective, we have been in this war against urban and social attack together.

Throughout the greater Houston area, KTRK has actively sought to televise not only the graphic plight of hurting people, but also by airing the many efforts to address these concerns locally, they give a voice to all our hope. In our efforts to advocate for minorities, the disabled and elderly, children and youth living in impoverished and moderate income areas, KTRK has stood by our side. They are at FUUSA's health and job fairs, local community forums, community calendar events, town hall meetings and public service announcements with camera's rolling. FUUSA is but one of many such organizations that benefit from KTRK's coverage of community news. The entire channel 13 viewing area is likewise benefited. After natural disasters such as hurricanes Katrina and Rita, KTRK was there to cover the many outreach efforts to the victims of these natural disasters with an humanistic perspective that engendered wide spread community participation from every part of our citizenry.

KTRK is no stranger to the FUUSA mission or vision. The station has aired coverage of our history and work in the community by providing opportunities to appear on public affairs programs and through other on-air awareness activities. By putting a face on our battle they have helped to make it real to those who do not know this struggle personally. The KTRK mission to better the lives of their viewers through increased awareness of the plight of "the forgotten" inner-city wards has also helped to chip away at the social and economic barriers that divide, fan hatred, suspicions and discord in this city. KTRK's coverage of the work and

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vision of FUUSA expands, exponentially, our presence to those we serve and to those who care enough to join us in service. Consequently, KTRK has inadvertently helped to grow FUUSA's donor base and expand our programs and service capacity. Our target population – the neglected and those willing to help them – all watch television.

Our aim at FUUSA is to educate our clients to new possibilities and KTRK is a partner in that process. FUUSA recognizes that the rest of our journey calls for the goodwill of able bodied citizens in Houston and beyond. KTRK has helped to generate some of that goodwill for FUUSA in its quest to inform, educate and foster positive change for its viewers through careful, purposeful dissemination of the news. Further, KTRK has joined FUUSA over the years as participants in our annual fundraiser. Though our programmatic services are largely funded through state and federal grants, some of our service components must be covered by private funding. We, at FUUSA, are grateful for partners like KTRK who have put their money and mouth in unified motion. They not only cover local news responsibly, they give of their time, talents and resources to help make positive change happen.

I think FUUSA and KTRK have a common philosophy – "People perish for a lack of knowledge". Knowledge <u>is</u> power and KTRK is managing its power responsibly and respectfully in our local community.

Sincerel

Rev. Leslie Smith II CEO/Founder

cc: Amy Blankenship



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February 13, 2008

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Please consider including PUENTE

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Minerva Perez ABC13

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Mr. Kevin Martin Chairman

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20554

Subject: In the Matter of Broadcast Localism (MB Docket No. 04-233).

Report on Broadcast Localism and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

Dear Mr. Martin:

I understand that the Federal Communications Commission has recently initiated a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on broadcast localism, which asserts that broadcasters may not be adequately serving their local communities.

I disagree with this contention, particularly with regard to KABC-TV, which has been an incredible supporter of PUENTE Learning Center. PUENTE is a nonprofit organization that, for the last 23 years, has provided tuition-free educational programs to the underserved residents of East and South Los Angeles.

As an organization that must continually raise funds and secure in-kind donations to sustain its operations, we rely on the kindness of many entities, and KABC-TV has been particularly generous in this area. (They've also been supporters of many other community activities, including toy drives for low-income children and fundraising for local fire victims.)

PUENTE's annual Gala dinner, scheduled to be held next week, provides a prime example of ways in which KABC-TV has provided us with invaluable support. This is our biggest annual fundraising event, generating a significant amount of money to cover program expenses.

As it did for our last Gala, KABC-TV has again volunteered the talents of its employees to create a special video tribute to this year's Gala honoree, California First Lady Maria Shriver. This video is an integral part of the evening's program. Several KABC-TV employees are involved in its production – from initial brainstorming to filming to producing the finished product.

We would never be able to afford the tens of thousands of dollars it would take to pay for such a professionally prepared video. KABC-TV does an incredible job of serving its community; no further regulation is needed to ensure such service.

Sincerely.

Sister Jennie Lechtenberg Chief Executive Officer

cc: Ms. Michelle Carev

East Los Angeles Campus 501 South Boyle Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90033 P. (323) 780-8900 F. (323) 780-0359

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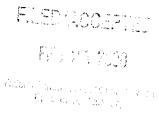
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plan. For information call: Sue Stamberger (323) 780-1163

www.puente.org

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Los Angeles Times

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Chairman

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Sincerely.

Sister Jernie Lechtenberg Chief Executive Officer

cc: Ms. Michelle Carey

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February 8, 2008

Chairman Kevin Martin Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W. Washington DC 20554

In the Matter of Broadcast Localism (MB Docket No. 04-233)

Report on Broadcast Localism and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

Dear Chairman Martin:

I noted with great interest that the FCC recently issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on broadcast localism. From what I understand, this proceeding is intended to "ensure that broadcasters are appropriately addressing the needs of their local communities." I wanted to be one of the first to tell you that, in my view and in the view of my organization, KGO-TV already serves our community in any number of ways that makes any additional federal regulation unnecessary.

We have worked with KGO-TV on public service announcements that have significantly raised local awareness of the issues which impact seniors and minorities in our community. KGO-TV also has produced and aired several stories as part of their coverage of local and community news and events that have raised the profile on the issues on which my organization works.

- On 11/23/2007, KGO-TV aired a story about how the Seniors Against Investment Fraud (SAIF), a San Francisco volunteer organization is helping to educate seniors about the different scams targeting seniors and how to avoid being a victim.
- On 1/17/2008, KGO-TV aired a program informing seniors of a free eye screening exam program being offered in San Francisco hospitals to seniors who cannot afford and have not seen an ophthalmologist for 3 years. This especially helps seniors who are not covered by insurance

KGO-TV also provides critical support both financially and/or through PSA's for our annual fundraising efforts such as "Sansei Live!" and "Silver Bells Holiday Arts and Crafts Faire." These events are responsible for a large share of our annual budget and help sustain our organization. I want to assure you that KGO-TV's role—including both on-air and off-air time—is critical both to our fundraising efforts and to getting our message out to the community-at-large.

Kimochi, Inc. 1715 Buchanan Street San Francisco, CA 94115 Fax (415) 931-2299 www.Kimochi-Inc.org

- \*Administration (415) 931-2294
- \*Social Service (415) 931-2275
- Volunteer Services (415) 931-2294

Kimochi Home

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Kimochi Senior Center 1840 Sutter Street Issei Memorial Hall San Francisco, CA 94115 (415) 931-2287 Fax (415) 931-2299

- ${\color{red} \bullet Nutrition}$
- \*Home Delivered Meals
- ·Senior Center Activities
- Transportation

Kimochi Lounge 1581 Webster Street #202 San Francisco, CA 94115 (415) 563-5626 Fax (415) 931-2299



## February 8, 2008, Page 2 of 2

Throughout the years, KGO-TV has recognized Kimochi staff and/or members of its board of directors for their work with Kimochi and with the community by airing their stories as part of its "Profile of Excellence Award." I have been a recipient of the award as have present and former board members Benh Nakajo, Sox Kitashima (deceased) and Dr. John Umekubo. Recently, KGO-TV has worked with Sandy Mori, our Development Director, on an "Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Salute" PSA.

It is because of my first-hand experience with such a long-standing partnership that I am curious as to why the FCC deems it necessary to issue additional regulations. In my view, our community already is well-served by KGO-TV and no national regulation could create the kind of great local partnership that we already enjoy.

Sincerely,

Steve Nakajo, M.S.W.

**Executive Director** 

cc: Michelle Carey

Monica Desai, Chief Media Bureau